AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and add claims 11 - 13 as follows:

1. (Original) A diagnostic method comprising outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a frequency band signal and subjecting the frequency band signal to noise, receiving a response of a patient, and diagnosing a disease of the patient based on the response.

2. (Original) A diagnostic method comprising outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a plurality of frequency band signals and subjecting the frequency band signals to noise, receiving a response of a patient, and diagnosing a disease of the patient based on the response.

3. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a disease is estimated with reference to disease database, based on information corresponding to the output Noise Vocoded Speech Sound signal and the response.

4. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to claim 1 or 3, wherein
the Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:
extracting a frequency band signal with a predetermined frequency band from at least one portion of the sound signal by a first band filtering procedure having a plurality band filtering procedures;
extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency signal by an envelope extracting procedure; generating a frequency band noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band from a noise source signal by a second band filtering procedure having a plurality of band filtering procedures;
multiplying the frequency band signal by the frequency band noise signal in a multiplying procedure; and
accumulating outputs obtained by the multiplying procedure in an adding procedure.

5. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein at least one of a number of the band filtering procedures for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed, at least depending on the language.

6. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein at least one of a number of the band filtering procedures for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed through automatic language recognition.

7. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, comprising a sound signal extracting procedure for extracting only a sound component from a sound signal, wherein the Noise Vocoded Speech Sound signal is obtained by converting at least one portion of the extracted sound component to a Noise Vocoded Speech Sound signal.

8. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic device for executing the method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~.

9. (Original) A program for letting a computer execute: a step of outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a frequency band signal and subjecting the frequency band signal to noise, a step of receiving a response of a patient, and a step of diagnosing a disease of the patient based on the response.

10. (Original) A program for letting a computer execute: a step of outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a plurality of frequency band signals and subjecting the frequency band signals to noise,   a step of receiving a response of a patient, and a step of diagnosing a disease of the patient based on the response.

11. (New) The diagnostic method according to claim 2, wherein a disease is estimated with reference to disease database, based on information corresponding to the output Noise Vocoded Speech Sound signal and the response.

12. (New) The diagnostic method according to claim 3, wherein

the Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:

extracting a frequency band signal with a predetermined frequency band from at least one portion of the sound signal by a first band filtering procedure having a plurality band filtering procedures;

extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency signal by an envelope extracting procedure; generating a frequency band noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band from a noise source signal by a second band filtering procedure having a plurality of band filtering procedures;

multiplying the frequency band signal by the frequency band noise signal in a multiplying procedure; and

accumulating outputs obtained by the multiplying procedure in an adding procedure.

13. (New) The diagnostic method according to claim 11, wherein

the Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:

extracting a frequency band signal with a predetermined frequency band from at least one portion of the sound signal by a first band filtering procedure having a plurality band filtering procedures;

extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency signal by an envelope extracting procedure; generating a frequency band noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band from a noise source signal by a second band filtering procedure having a plurality of band filtering procedures;

multiplying the frequency band signal by the frequency band noise signal in a multiplying procedure; and

accumulating outputs obtained by the multiplying procedure in an adding procedure.